

---

---

## 4.10 CULTURAL RESOURCES

---

---

---

## 4.10 CULTURAL RESOURCES

---

### INTRODUCTION

---

This section of the EIR describes cultural (prehistoric and historic and paleontological) resources known to be located on the project site. Prehistoric resources are those sites and artifacts associated with indigenous, non-Euroamerican population, generally prior to contact with people of European descent. Historical resources include structures, features, artifacts and sites that date from Euroamerican settlement of the region. Paleontological resources include vertebrates, invertebrates, or plant fossils (i.e., fossil location, fossil bearing formation or a formation with the potential to bear fossils). The extent to which development of the proposed project could remove, damage, or destroy existing historic, prehistoric, or paleontological resources is herein evaluated.

This section is based on information in the Rocklin General Plan EIR, Rocklin General Plan, the *Evaluation of Cultural Resources*<sup>1</sup> (Appendix Y) prepared by Ric Windmiller, Consulting Archaeologist, in July 2003 specifically for the proposed Vista Oaks project, the *Updated Cultural Resources Study*<sup>2</sup> (Appendix Z) prepared by Ric Windmiller in May 2005 specifically for Highlands Parcel A, *Evaluation of Cultural Resources Peer Review and Report*<sup>3</sup> (Appendix AA) by Peak & Associates in August 2003, and *Preliminary Paleontological Assessment*<sup>4</sup> (Appendix BB) prepared by Richard Hilton in May 2005. A complete list of the references cited in the text below is included as an attachment to the Windmiller *Cultural Resources Report* for Vista Oaks and the *Updated Cultural Resources Study* for Highlands Parcel A. Pertinent comments received in response to the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the proposed project have been integrated into the analysis.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

---

#### Cultural Resources

##### Prehistory

While scholars have conducted a number of excavations in the Sacramento Delta's deep village mounds, relatively little scientific work, other than surface surveys and limited test excavations, has been accomplished along the Sierra foothills away from the valley's rivers and major tributaries.

Since the early 1950's, stone tools of the so-called "Farmington Complex" have been unearthed periodically along the Sacramento Valley-Sierra foothills ecotone (Moratto 1984:62). Archeologist Eric Ritter has shown that the artifacts are either contemporaneous

with, or older than the Modesto Formation, which would date the tools between 10,000 and 5000 B.C. (Ritter *et al.* 1976).

Commenting on the 1979 excavations by Peak & Associates of a stone tool quarry and campsites near Rancho Murieta, Sacramento County, the late Julian Hayden, a Southwestern archaeologist, commented on the similarity of the Farmington artifact types with those of San Dieguito II from southern California and the Lower Colorado River area (Peak 1981; Julian Hayden, personal communication 1994).

San Dieguito II is contemporary with the Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition, an adaptation of ancient cultures to lake, marsh, and grassland habitats along the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada as early as 9000 B.C. (Moratto 1984:90-91). The development of the Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition and its regional variants such as the Farmington complex may, as Moratto suggested, correspond to the emergence and initial differentiation of Hokan languages (1984:544).

The Archaic Period, which in California lasted from about 6000 B.C. to A.D. 1000, is divided by archaeologists into three sub-periods: lower, middle, and upper (Fredrickson 1994:100, Figure 9.1). During the Lower Archaic, between 6000 and 3000 B.C., many of the pluvial lakes became dry playas as a result of climatic changes. Early milling stone complexes of this subperiod have been identified by scholars at a number of sites in the southern and northern regions of the state. Seed gathering, inferred from the use of milling stones, was an arid land adaptation. Speakers of Hokan languages probably brought the concept of milling stones to California, because scholars recognize that Hokan peoples were in the regions of the western United States where deserts first appeared after the end of the last Ice Age (Moratto 1984:546-547).

The Middle Archaic, dating between 3000 and 500 B.C., marked the beginning of the florescence of aboriginal cultures in California's Great Central Valley. In 1963, archaeologist Patti Palumbo began identifying settlements in the Roseville-Rocklin area dating throughout the Middle and Upper Archaic (Palumbo 1966).

Reliance on acorns as a staple is inferred from the first appearance of mortars and pestles in archeological sites dating early in the period (Fredrickson 1994:100, Figure 9.1). Peak & Associates studied an area along Secret Ravine in 1988, discovering nine bedrock milling stations, three of which may have included buried cultural deposits (Peak & Associates 1988). Archaeologist Susan Lindstrom conducted a survey along Secret Ravine near Rocklin in 1989 and reported three bedrock mortar sites (Lindstrom 1989:19-20).

Sedentary villages were built during the Middle Archaic, and evidence exists of marked population growth. In the Sacramento Valley, these developments followed the formation of the Sacramento Delta and marsh lands, a consequence of the rising sea level caused by global warming and melting of glaciers at the end of the Pleistocene.

Between 4000 and 2000 B.C., it is probable that Hokan languages were spoken in much of California. However, with increased aridity east of the Sierra, speakers of Penutian

languages apparently began moving from the deserts of the northwestern Great Basin and southern Columbia Plateau into northern California. By 2500 B.C., a Utian population speaking the Penutian language (ancestral to Miwok-Costanoan) apparently entered the lower Sacramento Valley presumably from the Great Basin and Plateau physiographic provinces. Archaeologists recognize this intrusion as the Windmill Pattern, a culture adapted to river and marsh land, characterized by extended burials, red ochre and quartz crystals in graves, charmstones and projectile point styles shared with Altithermal cultures of the Columbia Plateau (Moratto 1984:552).

Between 2000 and 500 B.C., Utian populations appear to have occupied the Sacramento Delta, the areas along rivers and streams, marsh land, as well as the hills on both the east and west sides of the Sacramento Valley (Moratto 1984:553). Expansion westward into the San Francisco Bay area seems to have brought about some type of fusion between the bearers of Utian languages and the resident speakers of Hokan and Yuki languages. This apparent fusion of cultures, whatever its precise nature, resulted in what archaeologists now recognize as the Berkeley Pattern.

During the Upper Archaic, 500 B.C.-A.D. 1000, a number of dramatic cultural changes seems to have occurred in the Sacramento Valley. In the southern portion of the Valley, the Windmill Pattern was displaced by the Morse Aspect of the Berkeley Pattern (Bennyhoff 1994:83). Most Windmill sites were abandoned by 200 B.C. and the Windmill population in the Consumnes district appears to have moved southward into the Stockton area. Archeologist Michael Moratto interpreted these findings to mean that Miwokan peoples moved eastward from the San Francisco Bay area into the older Utian and Yokutsan domain of the Sacramento Delta (1984:557). As a result, Yokuts shifted southward into the San Joaquin Valley and east into the central Sierra.

Ancestors of the Nisenan, a Maiduan people who historically inhabited the American and Yuba River drainages encompassing the Vista Oaks property, emigrated to the region rather late in time. Increasing aridity in the Great Basin seems to have been a factor initially that prompted entry of ancestral Maiduans into the northern Sierra Nevada Mountains. During the first 200 years of the Christian Era, Maiduan groups penetrated further to Yana territory of northeastern California (Moratto 1984:562). Ritter's Bidwell Complex may represent the radiation of Maiduan speakers into the Oroville locality around A.D. 600-700 (Ritter 1970a; 1970b; Moratto 1984:562).

After comparing various linguistic models of Maiduan radiation, archaeologist Makoto Kowta suggested that Maiduan-speakers entered California from the north around A.D. 500 and settled first in the foothills or valley edge in what historically was Nisenan territory (1988:190).

The following Emergent Period, A.D. 1000-1800, was characterized by the consolidation of territories formed as a result of the immigration of native groups, including the Nisenan. These territories probably remained in much the same locations as noted by early Spanish observers (cf. Fredrickson 1994:100, Figure 9.1). Interregional trade seems to have

expanded greatly during the Emergent, up to the succeeding Mission Period when Spanish intrusions began interfering with the California natives' way of life.

#### Ethnography/Ethnohistory

The foothill Nisenan constructed their villages near water sources such as rivers and creeks. The tribelet, a loose political organization, controlled specific districts usually bounded by major stream or river drainages. Foothill tribelets held districts of land located between river drainages, which were home to large central villages surrounded by smaller village communities.

This pattern of political organization was different from the Valley Nisenan whose territories were located along water courses bounded by the land between drainages (Wilson 1995:2-36). Territories of the Valley, Foothill, and Hill Nisenan together encompassed the American, Feather, Bear and Yuba river drainages from the west bank of the Sacramento to the Sierra crest (Wilson and Towne 1978:387).

The foothill Nisenan worked with a natural resource base requiring greater mobility and more intense use of available resources than their valley counterparts (Matson 1972). As a result, the foothill people did not have large, year-round villages comparable to the size and population density of the Valley Nisenan (Wilson 1995:2.38). However, many small camp and village sites were scattered across the foothills and mountains, each no more than two days' travel by foot from a central or winter village.

In Auburn, a center existed, which was a major winter village with a sphere of influence that included Forest Hill Ridge to the east, Bear River to the north, the Middle Fork of the American River to the south, down Auburn Ravine to the Lincoln vicinity, and down Secret Ravine (Wilson 1995:2.40). Another major tribelet center existed in Roseville (Palumbo 1966:9).

Winter villages were located by permanent water sources and included a large, semi-subterranean assembly house and substantial residences which were partly excavated into the ground. The residences were supported by strong wood frames covered with brush, mud, cedar or pine bark. These houses had an indoor hearth and sometimes a portable mortar set into the dirt floor. The people slept near the walls on mats and skins. Benches or shelves held food and equipment. A sweat lodge and acorn granaries were also found at the permanent villages. Cemeteries were often located nearby.

A second type of residence was constructed at camps away from the winter villages. This type of house was constructed of a frame covered with brush or tules. Though excavated slightly into the ground with the earth piled around the exterior base to keep out drafts, the house did not always have a hearth. This type of house was used for sleeping and storage only.

Other structures included frames for drying meat and plants, and sun shades constructed over bedrock mortar stations. Acorns were gathered in the fall, and their flesh pulverized

in these mortars, after which the bitterness was removed by leaching in water. From acorns, an unleavened bread was made. Acorn gruel, heated in baskets with hot stones, was also made and consumed. Acorns were the staple among many California native groups.

In the fall, winter, and spring, steelhead and salmon ran in most of the major streams including Secret Ravine (Wilson 1995:2.37). During the winter floods in the Sacramento Valley, great numbers of animals including elk, antelope, and bear retreated to natural levees along the valley's rivers and into the lower foothills. Resident and migratory deer herds also congregated along the valley-foothills margin. Hunting these animals was an important part of the lifeways of foothill peoples.

Foothill people would leave their village centers in late winter or early spring. They would travel down to the margin of the Sacramento Valley for the fish runs, migratory waterfowl, young rabbits, the salt springs and the first green plants (Wilson 1995:2.39).

### History

In the first two years of the Gold Rush, over 100,000 immigrants poured into California, mining every gulch (Lardner and Brock 1924:163). Secret Ravine was "discovered" early. The first miners worked the streambed, then turned to the banks and slopes along Secret Ravine. Ditches were dug to transport water to sluices where the alluvial deposits were washed for gold. As the easy gold in the streambed was exhausted, the miners built earthen dams, diverting water to work the higher terraces.

Sluicing and low-pressure hydraulics comprised the system of placer mining of the 1850's. By the 1860's the industry had turned to quartz mining under ground. Chinese took up abandoned placer claims, while European-Americans divided their interests between placering and farming.

The placers were worked for most of the remaining years of the 19th century. A brief revival of placer mining occurred along Secret Ravine during the Great Depression in the 1930s (Wilson 1993:4).

During the Gold Rush, only a few non-native families existed in the Roseville-Rocklin vicinity. One of the area's pioneer agricultural families was the Hawes brothers, who quickly turned from mining to land ownership along Antelope Ravine circa 1850 (Davis 1981:109-110). Another of Rocklin area's early settlers, Dr. Nathan S. Page, acquired 160 acres along Antelope Ravine in 1857 (Davis 1981:114). During the same year, Page bought L.L. Deming's quarter interest in Demings and Cos. Ditch, which included part ownership in the company's mining property (Placer County 1857:352).

Areas that became Roseville and Rocklin were isolated before the transcontinental railroad was built. The main route through the region was the Sacramento-Auburn wagon road, which followed the west bank of the American River's north fork. Another thoroughfare branched off from the main Sacramento-Auburn road at Half Way House and followed

along Secret Ravine. To connect with either of these main roads, the first European-American residents of the Rocklin locality took a trail that headed south, then southeast crossing Secret Ravine, following a gentle grade to Miner's Ravine, continuing to Strap Ravine and the Galt House and on to the Sacramento road at Half Way House (Davis 1981:4).

Beyond the Gold Rush, construction of the Central Pacific Railroad was a decisive factor in the growth of local trade centers. Laying of the first 18 miles of track between Sacramento and the Tobias S. Grider Ranch was completed in January, 1864 (Davis 1990:9). This temporary terminus at Grider Ranch was also a junction between the Central Pacific and the California Central railroads. Service by the California Central between Folsom, Junction, and Lincoln began in 1861 (Davis 1990:7).

The original town site of Rocklin, located less than a mile north of the Vista Oaks property, was laid out in 1866 (Davis 1990:3). "Rocklin" was apparently a corruption of "Rock Land," so named by local people of Finnish descent for the granite outcrops (Ruhkala 1976:2).

Granite occurs in the region as residual surface boulders and massive exposures of a large batholith that extends from Folsom, Sacramento County, northwest to Lincoln (Davis 1990:13). Varying accounts have been given as to the first granite quarry in Placer County. Some sources indicate that the first quarry was opened circa 1863 by Griffith Griffith at Wildwood on the Sacramento, Placer and Nevada Railroad. Ruhkala reported that the earliest granite quarrying at Rocklin was in 1855 for construction at Fort Mason in San Francisco (Ruhkala 1976:2). However, the Rocklin Historical Society's Points of Historical Interest includes Brady's Quarry, established as the first Rocklin quarry in 1861 by Charles A. Bringham and Elisha Hawes (Rocklin Historical Society 1999).

Whichever was the earliest, the granite quarries at Rocklin are generally acknowledged as opening in 1863 in anticipation of the railroad (Aubury 1906:38). The silver-gray, fine-grained granite of Rocklin was highly desired as building stone.

In a retrospective, State Mineralogist, Lewis E. Aubury described the Rocklin quarries as occurring in an area probably less than a square mile where the granite outcrops on the surface. Aubury indicated that this area of granite quarrying in Placer County has more than local importance (Aubury 1906:38). When the railroad was completed to Rocklin and Penryn, the quarries shipped finished stone to Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Stockton, Fresno, Auburn, Truckee, and Tonapah, Nevada (Davis 1990:129). Quarrying operations supplied local and distant markets with finished stone and waste material during the industry's fluorescence between 1864 and 1890. Waste material was used for railroad culverts and riprap along northern California levees.

At the time of Aubury's report (written in 1904 but not published until 1906), 15 quarries were in operation and several others were idle. Most of the quarries were small, employing 3-10 men, which were mostly of Finnish, Russian, and Italian descent. The largest quarry employed 33 men and at times as many as 50. The largest quarry was

opened in 1877 by a Mr. Marine, but was operated by Griffith Griffith from 1878 to 1880. From 1880 (to at least 1904), the quarry was operated by the Rocklin Granite Company. In 1904, the quarry was a rectangular pit, 100 feet wide, 250 feet long, and 100 feet deep. Curbing slabs 10-20 feet long were split from the quarry's faces. The quarry was equipped with large derricks and steam hoists, an overhead steam traveler in the cutting sheds and polishing and surfacing machines (Aubury 1906:39-40).

Granite quarrying was a booming industry until 1890. In 1920, the State Mineralogist reported that the demands of stonecutters for increased wages, competition from manufactured building materials "and other causes" strangled the industry. Besides the California Granite Company, Rocklin in 1920 accommodated a number of small operators who employed 1-3 men each on an intermittent basis for small jobs (Hamilton 1920:452). However, by the Great Depression of the 1930s, Placer County's granite quarries cut back or ceased operations altogether.

During the 1860's, Junction, which later became Roseville, was a day telegraph station. Rocklin was a station where help was added to trains running to the Sierra summit. By 1869, Rocklin boasted of a station, roundhouse, turntable, water tank, and woodshed. Behind and northeast of the roundhouse was Rocklin's Chinatown. Of Rocklin's 300-400 population at the time, people of Chinese descent were a significant minority—most of whom had worked between 1865 and 1869 in construction of the Central Pacific across the Sierra. Many made their living by hand laundry and growing vegetables on "a flat expanse of land southeast of town known to this very day as 'China Gardens,'" while a few continued to work for the railroad (Davis 1990:31). Others of Chinese descent reworked the gravels of Secret Ravine Creek for placer gold. In his "History of Rocklin," Ruhkala described Chinese reworking the gravel beds, "especially at the China Gardens" (Ruhkala 1976:4).

While the Caucasian and Chinese communities coexisted in Rocklin without serious incident for many years, the amicable relationship ended with murder in September 1876. Ah Sam and associates allegedly murdered H. N. Sargent and two employees at the Sargent place three miles from town. Fifteen Chinese were eventually caught, four of whom were sent to jail. In a matter of days, Rocklin's Caucasian citizens voted to notify all "Chinamen" to leave town the same day. People of Chinese descent left and that same evening, all 25 houses in the Chinese quarter were razed (Davis 1981:32).

Similar town meetings were held in Roseville, Loomis, and Penryn to drive the Chinese from their communities as well as the countryside as far east as the American River towards Folsom. Davis indicated that as late as 1879, people of Chinese descent could not rent a house or gain employment in Rocklin.

According to Davis, "today the still beautifully pristine China Gardens (site) and the freeway frontage road of the same name are the only reminders of that long ago day when Rocklin had a considerable Chinese population" (Davis 1990:32). The same China Gardens site was apparently used by Rocklin's Finnish community as a picnic area (Barbara Nichols, personal communication 2003).



### On-Site Cultural Resources for Vista Oaks

Previous research identified a total of eight cultural resources located on the proposed Vista Oaks development within the City of Rocklin's Corporate Boundary. The cultural resources include: (1) a granite foundation site (CA-PLA-511-H); (2) a multi-component prehistoric and historic archaeological site (CA-PLA-515/H); (3) an isolated bedrock milling station (PA-89-33); (4) a diffuse scatter of historic artifacts with a significant number of Chinese origin (PA-89-32); (5) a rock fence (IF-89-15); (6) an historic ditch, small dam, and reservoir area (IF-89-16); (7) an historic granite quarry (VO-1); (8) and a second isolated bedrock milling station (VO-2).

#### *Granite Foundation (CA-PLA-511-H)*

Wayne Wiant, who was the archaeological technician for the California Department of Transportation originally described this historic archaeological site as a granite foundation made of "cut" granite blocks, no mortar and exterior dimensions of 12 x 14 feet. Wiant further described his finds of flat opaque glass, clear embossed bottle glass, and a shovel blade, which he associated with the foundation (Wiant 1982:6).

Peak & Associates later described the foundation as partially mortared with "quarry marks" on several of the granite blocks. According to Peak & Associates, the blocks were stacked two high with mortar present in the southeast corner of the foundation. The northern portion of the foundation was, according to the Peak & Associates study, either never entirely in place or may have been subsequently removed as the blocks are mostly absent in this section of the foundation. Peak & Associates also reported that one block in the southeast corner and three blocks in the southwest corner had been disturbed and rested in the interior of the foundation area (Peak & Associates 1989:10).

In March, 2002, Windmiller found the site in much the same condition as described earlier by Peak & Associates. In addition, however, Windmiller noted a 12 to 15-foot wide, northeast-southwest linear depression immediately south of the foundation. At the time, Windmiller tentatively suggested that the depression was an old road segment.

During the current evaluation study, Windmiller returned to this site. The granite foundation was in much the same condition as described earlier by Peak & Associates and observed again by Peak & Associates in 2002. A firebreak was cut in the same location where, in 2002, Windmiller observed a road-like, linear depression on the south side of the foundation.

#### *Bedrock Mortars, Midden and Mining Features (CA-PLA-515/H)*

Wayne Wiant, who was the archaeological technician for the California Department of Transportation originally described this archaeological site, in his 1982 report *Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Proposed Roseville Bypass Project*, as an 11.5-acre complex of bedrock mortars and cultural deposits at least one meter deep. At the site, Wiant observed basalt and chert flakes, approximately 50 bedrock mortars, manos, basalt

flake tools and burned bone (presumably animal bone, as archaeologists generally make a distinction between “bone” and “human remains” (Wiant 1982:8-9).

In their 1989 study, Peak & Associates described the site as 7.5 acres in extent—recognizing that Wiant’s estimate probably included both portions of the archaeological site—one located on what is now Vista Oaks and the other located on the adjacent Highlands property to the east.

Peak & Associates identified a total of 10 separate boulders at the archaeological site, each with mortar holes from one to 54 in number. Peak and Associates’ field team found one bedrock mortar station partly covered in midden containing fire cracked rock, ash, chert debitage, bone (again, presumably non-human animal bone) and fragments of grinding implements (manos) (Peak & Associates 1989:10-11).

Subsequent test excavations by Peak & Associates in December, 1989 and a review of that portion of the site by Windmiller in 1996 and again in 2002 resulted in the identification of eight relatively small, discrete components scattered horizontally over the area previously identified as CA-PLA-515/H (cf. Peak & Associates 1990, Windmiller 1996, 2002a).

Component 1 includes two cultural deposits, Component 2 includes one cultural deposit, and Component 3 “. . . contain[s] only an extremely small area (of prehistoric cultural deposit) that is not sufficient for archaeological testing” (Peak & Associates). Component 3 also includes an area of placer mining where low-pressure hydraulic methods were used, and a “cellar” pit. Component 4 includes a lateral and small portion of what appears to have been the Demings & Company Ditch found in Placer County records dating back to 1857. The ditch and lateral appear to have provided water for the placer diggings.

Bedrock mortar stations D, K and I correspond to Components 5, 6 and 7, respectively. None of these bedrock mortar stations appear to have associated cultural deposits according to the 1990 Peak & Associates study.

Component 8 is a large boulder identified during Peak & Associates’ 1996 supplemental inventory and reevaluated in Windmiller’s March, 2002 study. In 1996, the boulder clearly illustrated concentric circles of lichen in the same pattern found in Native American petroglyphs or “rock carvings.” However, by 2002 the lichens had largely disappeared and it was impossible to discern any pecked designs.

A ninth component can be added to this assortment of largely non-continuous features: a small, eroded, low-pressure hydraulic mining landscape on the Creek. The small landscape includes eroded scarps 5-6 feet high and a low earthen dam. The scarps measure approximately 400 feet long from northeast to southwest. The low earthen dam remnant is approximately 560 feet long, 10-15 feet wide and no more than four feet high. All of the mining features occur within or quite near the Page Placer Claim, which was acquired as a mineral patent from the government and recorded by Page’s heirs in 1877 (Bureau of Land Management 1877).

#### *Historic Artifact Scatter (PA-89-32)*

Peak & Associates described this archaeological site as a diffuse scatter of historic artifacts. The Peak & Associates study noted artifacts including a Chinese stoneware rice bowl with paired Chinese characters and a utilitarian spouted “soy jar” on a graded portion of the site area. Ceramic stoneware fragments, decorated china, green, brown and clear glass fragments, barrel hoops, square nails, unidentified metal pieces, and an embossed green bottle were also recorded at the site.

In March 2002, the bladed firebreak that exposed the artifacts described by Peak & Associates was overgrown with dense grasses and thistles. In revisiting the site at that time, Windmiller found a few small historic artifacts (Peak & Associates 1989:9).

During the present evaluation study, remote sensing resulted in a site area larger than that estimated by Peak & Associates in their 1989 study, which was based on surface observations alone. Peak & Associates estimated the site’s size as 41.5 meters (136 feet) north-south and 10 meters (32 feet east-west). Based on remote sensing, Windmiller estimates the site’s size as 203 feet north-south and 72 feet east-west, a larger area though located in the same general area as recorded by Peak & Associates in 1989.

#### *Isolated Bedrock Milling Station (PA-89-33)*

Peak & Associates identified this site during their 1989 study. The site consists of two small mortar holes in a single granite boulder (Peak & Associates 1989:9). Their record form was explicit as to the site’s location. However, in two separate efforts to find the bedrock milling station, once during Windmiller’s 2002 preliminary evaluation and again during the current evaluation study, the holes were unable to be located. The possibility exists that the outcropping was buried, removed or even recorded incorrectly.

#### *Rock Fence (IF-89-15)*

Peak & Associates described the fence as 330 meters (1,083 feet) long and 0.3 meters (12 inches) to 0.8 meters (31.5 inches) high (Peak & Associates 1989:11). During the March 2002 inspection of the old fence, Ric Windmiller found it in poor condition. Off-highway vehicle trails have crossed the site of the rock fence in several places, which has further lessened the fence’s integrity.

#### *Ditch (IF-89-16)*

Peak & Associates described the dimensions of an old ditch remnant as 580 meters (1,903 feet) long and 1.1 meters (3.6 feet) to 1.3 meters (4.3 feet) wide. Peak & Associates also indicated that the ditch originates at a 12-meter (39 foot) long earthen dam at its northern terminus (Peak & Associates 1989:11).

In March 2002, Windmiller found this narrow ditch largely filled in by the effects of slope erosion over the years. Recent off-highway vehicle trails cross the ditch at right angles in a

number of places and such crossings have damaged or destroyed portions of this historic feature. However, most of the ditch lies intact and unaltered from the earlier Peak & Associates study.

#### *Quarry (VO-1)*

The quarry on the Vista Oaks project site includes the exposed worked face of a large granite boulder, a 10-foot high pile of granite waste rock, a low, 3 to 4-foot high pile of waste rock, a pit which is located between the two waste rock piles, and the quarry face on an exposed boulder. The quarry site, which measures approximately 60 x 40 feet, appears in its original condition except for the minor effects of natural erosion and a bladed firebreak along its west side.

#### *Isolated Bedrock Milling Station (VO-2)*

This isolated bedrock milling station was originally reported by Wiant as Pla -65BRM-4. Wiant described the isolate as five mortars in two boulders (Wiant 1982:7). Peak & Associates did not include the site in their 1989 study, possibly because either they or the Information Center did not recognize that it was located on the Guntert property (now Vista Oaks).

The mortars include four well-defined mortar holes on one flat-topped boulder and one shallow mortar hole on an adjacent flat-topped boulder.

#### On-Site Cultural Resources for Highlands Parcel A

In all, four archaeological resources have been identified on Highlands Parcel A project site within the City of Rocklin's Corporate Boundary. The cultural resources include: (1) Native American bedrock milling stations, cultural deposit, and a historic ditch segment (CA-PLA-515/H); (2) Native American bedrock milling stations and midden deposits (CA-PLA-1186); (3) two segments of an historic ditch (AF-31-67H (CA-PLA-1211-H); and (4) a small placer mine (HPA-1).

Following is a description of each of the resources identified above.

#### *CA-PLA-515/H (Prehistoric Components 2, 4, and 5)*

Component #2 includes bedrock mortars and a cultural deposit in Areas 1 and 2 in Flat C, as defined earlier by Peak & Associates (cf., Windmiller 1996: Appendix E and Windmiller 2003:26). This component is situated on a rise overlooking Secret Ravine. Archaeological test excavations back in 1990 revealed cultural deposits ranging in depth from 30 to 80 centimeters.

Component #4 consists of a portion of the ditch that empties into the Page Placer Claim on Vista Oaks, which lies on the west side of Highlands Parcel A. Previous research identified the ditch as another segment of the Demings & Cos. Ditch or a peripheral

thereof (cf. Windmiller 1996:9, 13, 16-17, Appendix E and Windmiller 2003:26, 35). However, the eastern portion of this segment of the ditch was noted as destroyed during the 1996 study. In the 1996 study, this segment of the ditch was considered part of the Page Placer Mine.

Component #5 is an isolated bedrock milling station located between Component #2 and Secret Ravine Creek. Windmiller found no notable changes in the component since the 1996 study.

#### *Highlands #2 (CA-PLA-1186)*

Highlands #2 (CA-PLA-1186) is a Native American site that includes two distinct areas of use: a ridge-based feature of bedrock mortars and accompanying midden deposit with an abundance of fire broken rock in its 20-30 centimeters of depth and; a second area of bedrock mortars adjacent to Secret Ravine Creek with an accompanying small deposit of sediments, dark gray in color that may be cultural deposits.

#### *AF-31-67H (CA-PLA-1211-H)*

The AF-31-67H historic archaeological site is a segment of what has been previously identified as the Demings & Cos. Ditch. The ditch segment was originally recorded on the adjacent Granite Lake Estates subdivision project (PAR and Associates 1988). The ditch parallels the south (east) bank of Secret Ravine Creek. A narrow ravine separates two segments of the ditch, and the northeast segment is relatively short.

#### *HPA-1*

This minor archaeological resource consists of a gouge in the south (east) bank of Secret Ravine. The gouge may represent a small, collapsed drift mine or simply an area dug out while prospecting for gold.

### **Paleontological Resources**

#### Geologic History

The geologic history of the Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A sites spans about 128 million years. About 128 million years ago the area would have been at the core of a mountain range resembling the Andes of today. Large hot fluid magmas would have been intruding into the core of the range, slowly cooling and solidifying into granitic masses like that of Rocklin Pluton. The Rocklin Pluton forms the basement rocks of the Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A sites.

For about 50 million years this mountain range eroded into the sea into the present site of the Sacramento Valley finally exposing the Rocklin Pluton. With the original Sierra now nearly eroded flat the land subsided or sea level rose somewhat, and the seashore migrated to about the present site of the lower foothills of the Sierra Nevada. This is

shown by the abundant clasts of Mariposa type slate that once formed sea cliffs nearby, now found in the turbidites of the Upper Cretaceous (~80 Ma) marine rocks equivalent to the Chico Formation in the Granite Bay area.

The Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A sites were under the ocean as evidenced by the marine sediments of the Chico Formation found in Rocklin and Granite Bay. By about 50 million years ago, the area had again risen out of the sea and sediments from the Eocene Ione rivers and deltas were being deposited in Rocklin and the nearby areas of Granite Bay and Lincoln.

In early Miocene (~30 Ma), volcanism in Nevada and subsequent erosion would have blanketed the Rocklin area in rhyolitic ash deposits known loosely as the Valley Springs Formation. Although the Valley Springs Formation may have been locally eroded away, Miocene (~10 million year old) fluvial deposits and volcanogenic mudflows of the Mehrten Formation cap older units and can be found on the higher ground in the Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A sites.

During the Pleistocene, noted for its ice advances on the continent and in the Sierra Nevada, the sediments of the Turlock Lake Formation were deposited in low-lying areas of the Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A sites. Secret Ravine Creek continues to deposit younger alluvium in its present flood plain during flood stages.

### *Mesozoic Geology*

#### The Sierra Nevada Batholith and Rocklin Pluton

The oldest rocks of the Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A areas are the granitic rocks of the Rocklin Pluton. A pluton is a large intrusion of liquid magma that usually cools and solidifies kilometers beneath the surface of a mountain range. Larger intrusions of magma may be called batholiths, or several plutons intergrown may be called a batholith as well. The Rocklin Pluton is a portion of the Sierra Nevada Batholith. The Sierra Nevada Batholith is part of a series of batholiths that formed during the Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods (151-77 Ma) along western North America from Alaska to the tip of Baja. The portion of the Batholith in the Sierra Nevada proper is approximately 400 miles long and 80 miles wide and is composed of a mosaic of Upper Jurassic to Lower Cretaceous plutons, some of batholith size, others as small as less than one square mile (Schweickert, 1981). Their chemical makeup ranges from quartz diorite to granite (Bateman and Wahrhaftig, 1966) with granodiorite and quartz monzonite being most common. Evernden and Kistler (1970) documented age zones of the plutons. The western plutons are upper Jurassic (151-132 Ma) and include the Rocklin and Penryn Plutons, both found in the Loomis Basin. Due to fractional crystallization, the Rocklin Pluton (which underlies the Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A sites) varies from quartz diorite near Folsom to granodiorite in the quarry at Rocklin (Swanson, 1978). The Rocklin Pluton was once a liquid magma that intruded into this area about 128 million years ago (Curtis, Evernden and Lipson, 1958). At that time this area was the core of a mountain range that

would have resembled the Andes or Cascades of today. This quartz diorite would have been a large liquid mass of magma, miles across, intruding into older (Jurassic) metamorphic rocks as well as the previously intruded (148 Ma) Penryn Pluton to the east (Arnold, 1980).

The Sierra Nevada Batholith is reported to have been emplaced under approximately 4-8 km of cover (Schweickert, 1981). Most of the erosional stripping of the older rocks that overlie the Sierra Nevada Batholith was accomplished by early Eocene (55 Ma). In the Rocklin area, however, Upper Cretaceous (ca. 80 Ma) marine rocks equivalent to the Chico Formation (Lindgren, 1894, 1911) lie with nonconformity directly on the granitic rocks of the Sierra Nevada Batholith (Ingersoll, 1979). Fossils are not usually found in intrusive igneous rocks which is the make-up of the Rocklin Pluton and Sierra Nevada Batholith.

#### Chico Formation

The Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A sites were once under the sea as evidenced by the marine sediments of the Chico Formation found nearby in Rocklin (intersection of Pacific Street and Sunset Blvd.), Stanford Ranch and other areas such as Granite Bay, and Lincoln.

Lindgren (1894, 1911) identified the Upper Cretaceous (late Coniacian-middle Campanian) Chico Formation. Locally, it lies with nonconformity on the granitic rocks of the Sierra Nevada Batholith and sometimes below the Eocene Ione Formation, Valley Springs Formation, or Mehrten Formations. In the Granite Bay area numerous marine invertebrate fossils, including ammonites, bacculites, nautiloids, gastropods, bivalves, scaphoids and echinoids have been found in the Chico Formation. In addition, vertebrate fossils have been identified, such as bones and teeth from fish, including shark, as well as bones from marine turtles, mosasaurs and even a dinosaur (Hilton and Antuzzi, 1997, Hilton, et. Al.1997). Additional fossils were recovered at the intersection of Pacific and Sunset Blvd. in Rocklin. Many of these fossils are curated at the Sierra College Natural History Museum.

### *Cenozoic Geology*

#### Ione Formation

Ione Formation has not been mapped, nor has evidence been found that the Ione Formation outcrops on the Vista Oaks or Highlands Parcel A sites. However, the Ione Formation outcrops in the Lincoln, Rocklin, and Granite Bay areas and may be encountered during grading and excavation on the Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A sites. The Ione Formation and the Auriferous Gravels are a series of Eocene river and deltaic deposits. The rivers had their headwaters to the east of the present Sierra (Durrell, 1966) and emptied into the sea near the present boundary of the Sierra and Great Valley Provinces where these deposits consist of

quartz sandstones and occasional kaolinitic shales of light brown, yellowish and pink color.

Using paleobotanical evidence, MacGinitie (1941) established that the deltaic deposits found near the base of the Sierra (known as the Ione Formation) were once continuous with the fluvial deposits known as the Auriferous Gravels, found on the ridges of the Sierra. A good example of the Auriferous Gravels can be seen in the road cuts of I-80 at Gold Run.

The Ione Formation is Lower and Middle Eocene (Paske and Turner, 1952) and is found scattered at the base of the Sierra. The Ione Formation appears to have been deposited in fluvial, lagoonal and deltaic environments with an episodic ocean incursion (Bateman and Wahrhaftig, 1966) as evidenced by occasional beds bearing Middle Eocene marine molluscs (Merriam and Turner, 1937). Two significant outcrops are worth noting: one at the town of Ione to the south and the other to the north at Lincoln. In both locations significant economic deposits of clay exist and are still being mined.

In the Granite Bay and Rocklin areas, Ione fluvial and deltaic deposits contain many tree trunks of opalized wood. Many dicot and monocot leaves have been discovered, including magnolia leaves. Occasional palm nuts have been found. Paleobotanical specimens were identified by Howard Schorn (personal communication, 1993). Fossil leaves, seeds, nuts and cones found in the Ione Formation as well as weathering characteristics and lateritic soils point to a near tropical environment at the time of deposition (MacGinitie, 1941).

#### Valley Springs Formation

Outcrops of Valley Springs Formation have not been mapped nor seen on the Vista Oaks or Highlands Parcel A sites; however, Valley Springs Formation may be encountered during grading and/or excavation. Occasional paleobotanical specimens have been found in fluvial or lacustrine deposits, and a humerus of a crocodilian was found in transitional Ione/Valley Springs fluvial deposits in the Twelve Bridges development in Placer County. Deposits loosely referred to as Valley Springs Formation were formed when rhyolitic eruptions occurred from Late Oligocene to Early Miocene and covered areas from central and southeast Nevada (Stewart and Carlson, 1976) to the foot of the Sierra and beyond. In Nevada, ashflow and welded tuffs predominate and are as thick as 3,000 feet. However, they thin to a few hundred feet or less in Placer County at the western margin of the Sierra where they are predominantly tuffs and tuffaceous sediment (Slemmons, 1966). In the Donner Pass area tuffs range from 33-26 Ma. (Dalrymple, 1964).

#### Mehrten Formation

The Mehrten Formation is found throughout the higher ground of the Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A sites, and consists of predominantly andesitic mudflows underlain by fluvial conglomerates. Elsewhere, the Mehrten Formation also



contains ashflow breccias and andesitic lavas (Bonham, 1969). First named by Piper (1939), the Formation was later established as having existed from the valley floor to the crest of the Sierra (Curtis, 1951, 1965). Near the Sierra crest, the oldest Mehrten Formation has been dated at approximately 30 Ma. (Wagner, D.L., personal communication) but most of it ranges from about 4 to 19 million years. In the Auburn area, an andesite tuff breccia was dated at about 9 Ma. (U.S. Dept. of Interior, 1978). Near its source area close to the present Sierra crest, its thickness reaches approximately 3,000 ft (Bateman and Wahrhaftig, 1966). The Mehrten Formation thins toward the west where it meets the valley floor. Adjacent to the Loomis basin, where the Formation probably was deposited in the distributaries of a Miocene river, its thickness is measured in tens of feet. Much of the Sierra was buried in Mehrten deposits, some of which filled bedrock topography with up to 1,500 feet of relief (Bateman and Wahrhaftig, 1966).

In the Rocklin-Roseville area, fossil leaves, needles and cones, identified by Daniel Axelrod (personal communication), show a climate only slightly moister than the present. These paleobotanical specimens include long-needled pines (similar to ponderosa), live oak, and bay. Vertebrate fossils are rare in the Mehrten Formation.

#### Turlock Lake Formation

The Lower Pleistocene Turlock Lake Formation (Bartow, J.A. and Helley, E.J., 1979) is found as terrace deposits along benches above the granite in the basin of Secret Ravine Creek in the Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A sites. This Formation is composed of partially consolidated sand, silt, and gravel derived mainly from Sierran granitic and metamorphic rocks (Wagner, D.L., 1981) and was probably laid down during the Kansan and Nebraskan mid-continental glacial episodes considered to span the Sherwin and McGee episodes of the Sierra Nevada (Schleman, R.J., 1967). The Turlock Lake Formation has the potential to contain significant Pleistocene terrestrial fossils. Fossil Pleistocene horse bones and teeth have been found in this formation in Granite Bay and other horse bones have been found in the Roseville area.

#### Quaternary Alluvium

Quaternary Alluvium exists in the flood plain of Secret Ravine Creek in the Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A sites. Quaternary Alluvium has the potential to contain terrestrial fossils.

### **REGULATORY CONTEXT**

---

Federal, State, and local governments have developed laws and regulations designed to protect significant cultural resources that could be affected by actions that they undertake or regulate. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National History Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), the Antiquities Act, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) are the principal federal and State laws governing preservation of historic and archaeological resources of national, regional, State, and local significance.

## **Federal – Cultural Resources**

Section 106 of NHPA requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and affords the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings. The Council's implementation regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties," are found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800. The goal of the Section 106 review process is to offer a measure of protection to sites that are determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The criteria for determining National Register eligibility are found in 36 CFR Part 60. Amendments to the Act (1986 and 1992) and subsequent revisions to the implementing regulations have, among other things, strengthened the provision for Native American consultation and participation in the Section 106 review process. Although federal agencies must follow federal regulations, most projects of private developers and landowners do not require this level of compliance. Federal regulations only apply in the private sector if a project requires a federal permit or if it uses federal money.

Under NHPA, the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of State and local importance that possess integrity of location, design, setting, material, handiwork, feeling, and association. Additionally, the National Register of Historic Places requires consideration of significance of any structure over 45 years old.

## **State – Cultural Resources**

State historic preservation regulations affecting this project include the statutes and guidelines contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Public Resources Code sections 21083.2 and 21084.1 and sections 15064.5 and 15126.4 (b) of the CEQA Guidelines). CEQA requires lead agencies to carefully consider the potential effects of a project on historical resources. An "historical resource" includes, but is not limited to, any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record or manuscript that is historically or archaeologically significant (Public Resources Code section 5020.1).

Advice on procedures to identify such resources, evaluate their importance, and estimate potential effects is given in several agency publications such as the series produced by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), *CEQA and Archaeological Resources*, 1994. The technical advice series produced by OPR strongly recommends that Native American concerns and the concerns of other interested persons and corporate entities, including, but not limited to, museums, historical commissions, associations and societies be solicited as part of the process of cultural resources inventory. In addition, California law protects Native American burials, skeletal remains, and associated grave goods regardless of the antiquity and provides for the sensitive treatment and disposition of those remains (California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, California Public Resources Codes Sections 5097.94 et al).

### California Historic Register

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) also maintains the California State Register of Historic Resources (CRHR). Properties that are listed on the National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP) are automatically listed on the CRHR, along with State Landmarks and Points of Interest. The CRHR can also include properties designated under local ordinances or identified through local historical resource surveys.

### Senate Bill (SB) 18

Senate Bill 18, signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger in September 2004, requires cities and counties to notify and consult with California Native American Tribes about proposed adoption of, or changes to, general plans and specific plans for the purpose of protecting Traditional Tribal Cultural Places (“cultural places”). Interim tribal consultation guidelines were published by OPR on March 1, 2005. The City of Rocklin will contact the Native American Heritage Commission and request consultation.

### **Federal and State – Paleontological Resources**

Paleontological resources on federal lands are protected under various laws relating to the protection of public properties; these laws are enforced through the issuance of permits by the appropriate agencies. However, paleontological resources existing on private property within California are generally unprotected under State law. Although such resources may be protected under local laws or regulations, the Rocklin General Plan does not specifically address paleontological resources.

### **Local – Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

#### City of Rocklin General Plan

The following General Plan policies, laws, and regulations are applicable to the cultural and paleontological resources of the proposed project:

#### *Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Element*

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Policy 1  | To encourage the protection of natural resource areas, scenic areas, hilltops, open space areas, and parks from encroachment or destruction by incompatible development through the use of conservation easements, buffers, set-backs or other measures. Developments shall be required to provide usable yard areas outside of conservation easements or established natural resource buffers. |
| Policy 3  | To encourage the protection of historically significant and geologically unique areas and encourage their preservation.   |
| Policy 16 | To encourage developments to incorporate resources such as creeks, steep hillsides, and quarries in private, but restricted, ownership.   |

### Southeast Rocklin Circulation Element

The following Southeast Rocklin Circulation Element Area Plan policies are applicable to the cultural and paleontological resources of the proposed project:

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Policy 45 | Design road improvements and new alignments to avoid or minimize disturbance to identified cultural resources.   |
| Policy 46 | Survey areas shown on adopted circulation plan diagram as creek crossing and identify sites of cultural and archaeological significance. Locate creek crossings to avoid or minimize disturbance to these sites. If realignment is not feasible, develop and implement a plan to recover resources before disruption, in consultation with the state Office of Historic Preservation and local Native American groups. |
| Policy 47 | Stop all construction in the event any previously undiscovered archaeological resource is encountered until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the find and an acceptable method for preservation is approved by the Community Development Director.   |

## **IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

---

### **Standards of Significance**

#### Archaeological Resources

The proposed project would be considered to have a significant effect on archaeological if the project had the potential to do the following:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource or disturb any human remains. According to Section 15064.5 of the CEQA *Guidelines*, all human remains are significant. Pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the CEQA *Guidelines*, archaeological resources not otherwise determined to be historical resources may be significant if they are unique. A non-unique archaeological resource means an archaeological artifact, object, or site that does not meet the above criteria. Non-unique archaeological resources do not receive further consideration under CEQA. Pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21083.2, a unique archaeological resource is defined as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, a high probability exists that it meets one of the following criteria:
  - a. Contains information needed to answer important scientific questions and a demonstrable public interest exists in that information;
  - b. Has a special and particular quality, such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type;
  - c. Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

#### Historic Resources

Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political or cultural annals of California may be considered an historical resource. Generally, the resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (Public Resources Code SS5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852), including if the project would do the following:

- Eliminate important examples of major periods of California history or pre-history, according to Section 15065 of the CEQA *Guidelines*. In addition, pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the CEQA *Guidelines*, an historical resource (including both built environment and prehistoric archaeological resources) shall be considered by the lead agency to be historically significant if it is listed on the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) or has been determined to be eligible for listing by the State Historical Resources Commission. An historical resource may also be considered significant if the lead agency determines, based on substantial evidence, that the resource meets the criteria for inclusion in the CRHR. Any resource that is listed on or considered eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places is automatically considered eligible for the CRHR. The National Register of Historic Places requires consideration of significance of any structure over 45 years old.

Under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of State and local importance that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, handiwork, feeling and association and:

- That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; and/or
- That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### Paleontological Resources

The proposed project would be considered to have a significant effect on paleontological resources if it were to cause a substantial adverse change to one or more scientifically

significant fossil or their geologic settings on the project site, as determined by a qualified paleontologist.

## **Method of Analysis**

### Cultural Resources

#### *Consultations*

On June 6, 2003 (Vista Oaks) and May 13, 2004 (Highlands Parcel A), the Native American Heritage Commission responded to Windmillers request for a search of its sacred lands file. The commission's representative indicated that the file search failed to identify the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area. However, the commission provided a list of Native American contacts who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the area.

On June 12, 2003, Windmillers mailed letters to each of the Native American contacts requesting information on any sites of Native American significance known to that individual. The contacts were: Mrs. Rose Enos, Auburn; Mr. David Keyser, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria; Ms. Jessica Tavares, Chairperson, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria; Mr. Sam Starkey, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria; Mr. Jeff Murray, Shingle Springs Band of the Miwok Indians and; Mr. Christopher Suehead, Todd Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation, Foresthill. Responses have not been received by Windmillers at the time of this writing.

In addition to Native Americans, Windmillers issued a similar letter to the Placer County Historical Society, Placer County Department of Museums and the Loomis Basin Historical Society. Responses have not been received at the time of this writing.

While conducting archival research, Windmillers contacted the Rocklin Historical Society directly. Responding for the historical society, Ms. Barbara Nichols indicated that China Gardens was located on Vista Oaks, and that the same site had been used as the Finnish picnic grounds. Ms. Nichols conducted some additional research on the subject. However, her findings led her to comment that she did not believe there were any historic Chinese residences on the property.

#### *Field and Research Methods for Vista Oaks*

Some of the field methods are included with site descriptions above.

The initial field survey by Wiant encompassed a portion of the Vista Oaks property approximately 600 feet wide along Interstate 80. Wiant reported that his project area, which was much larger than the Vista Oaks property, was inspected along a series of linear transects spaced about 20 meters apart (Wiant 1982:6).

The 1989 study by Peak & Associates included a field inspection of the Guntert (Vista Oaks) property along parallel transects spaced 15-25 meters apart, depending on the nature of the vegetation, visibility of the ground surface and sensitivity of various portions of the property for cultural resources. The Guntert property largely coincided with the currently proposed Vista Oaks development with the exception the southwest corner of Vista Oaks on the west side of Secret Ravine Creek.

To help evaluate the significance of historic archaeological sites, remote sensing (metal detecting with a White's V-Sat instrument capable of discriminating between ferrous and nonferrous metals) was used to help identify any buried artifacts and to establish site boundaries in addition to noting surface indications visible to the eye. The remote sensing was conducted at the granite foundation site, CA-PLA-511-H, and the deposit of historic artifacts, PA-89-32.

Limited test excavations were also conducted by Windmiller at both historic archaeological sites at Vista Oaks. The excavations were augur-size tests approximately eight inches in diameter to determine the nature and depth of cultural deposits at locations selected by the results of remote sensing.

To determine the nature and depth of the cultural deposit for the current evaluation study at PA-89-32, Windmiller excavated a single shovel test. The small, augur-size test pit of approximately 8 inches diameter yielded a profusion of artifacts to a depth of 12 inches below the surface. The sediment of the cultural deposit was a yellowish brown sandy loam (Munsell 10YR 5/6). The culturally sterile subsoil was indurated, lighter in color, and clayey.

The small shovel test yielded 43 potshards from thick-walled crockery to bowls and jars with walls of medium thickness to thin-walled, highly vitrified and painted wares. Seven square nails, a wire bail from a bottle, 11 fragments of brown, dark green, clear and light green bottle glass, a melted lump of dark colored glass, and piece of melted lead were also recovered from the shovel test pit. All of the pottery shards appear to be Chinese in origin, though some are too small for positive identification. Lacking other evidence, the site appears to be a trash deposit dating between the mid-1860s and 1876.

At CA-PLA-511H, remote sensing and limited test excavations of targets sensed by the metal detecting instrument revealed square nails, small fragments of sheet metal and an iron washer. Physical evidence of an old road was not apparent, only the evidence of a contemporary firebreak and a shallow scatter of the metallic remnants of building materials. The scatter of artifacts encompassing the granite foundation measures approximately 66 feet north-south and 76 feet east-west. The artifact scatter appears largely surface with some artifacts buried within three inches of the surface.

However, archival research was the primary tool used to establish potential significance of the historic sites. To this end, research was conducted by Ric Windmiller at the Rocklin Historical Society Museum, Rocklin Branch Library, California State Library, California

Bureau of Mines Library, Bureau of Land Management California State Office and the Placer County Records Office.

At one archaeological site, CA-PLA-515/H, the Peak & Associates field team scraped the ground clear of vegetation in 10 separate 1x1-meter squares in those places most likely to have a midden or cultural deposit and excavated 48 shovel test pits in an effort to identify the nature and extent of any subsurface cultural deposits (Peak & Associates 1989). In January 1990, Peak & Associates excavated three additional 1x1-meter units to culturally sterile sediment or bedrock at CA-PLA-515/H (Peak & Associates 1990).

Subsequent inspections of the Vista Oaks property by Ric Windmiller were limited to locating the previously recorded archaeological sites (Windmiller 2002a). The exception was a linear survey for South Placer Municipal Utility District's proposed sewer trunk line relocation along Secret Ravine (Windmiller 2002b).

During the present evaluation study, Windmiller also documented data on cultural resources not previously recorded on Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 series forms required by the California Office of Historic Preservation. In addition, Windmiller conducted shovel test excavations around one isolated bedrock milling station to determine whether or not buried cultural deposits were associated with the bedrock milling feature.

The shovel tests were excavated by Windmiller's field team in arbitrary 10cm levels. The sediments from each level were screened through one-quarter inch hardware cloth box screens to recover any artifacts or other indicators of cultural deposits. Color of the sediments, one key to identifying a midden or cultural deposit of organic refuse, was noted and any change in color or texture was recorded.

Windmiller conducted six augur-size shovel test pits (STPs) on the north, east and south sides of the bedrock milling station at VO-2. The outcropping of many granite boulders on the west side of the milling station prevented excavations on that side.

The excavations extended 30 to 40 centimeters below the present surface. Sediments were uniformly a yellowish brown (Munsell 10YR5/6) sandy clay. A questionably man-made cortical flake from a stream-worn cobble was recovered from the 10-20 centimeter level of STP 3. Two basalt flakes, possibly man-made, were recovered from the 20-30 centimeter level of STP 6. Both of these shovel test pits are located in an area disturbed by previous land modification (an old bulldozed cut on the hillside). Artifacts, other modified rocks, and evidence of a cultural deposit were not recovered from the shovel tests.



### *Field and Research Methods for Highlands Parcel A*

A field inspection of Highlands Parcel A was conducted by Ric Windmiller, Registered Professional Archaeologist, and a technical assistant on May 14 and 15, 2005. Previously recorded archaeological resources were revisited and their current condition evaluated on updated forms distributed by the California Office of Historic Preservation (DPR 523 series forms).

In addition, the Highlands Parcel A acreage was walked along widely spaced transects to check the adequacy of previous archaeological inspections. High grasses and annuals, as well as poison oak and other dense vegetation precluded an inspection closer than those conducted previously during the summer and fall dry seasons. Although one additional minor archaeological resource was located during the inspection, the likelihood is low that other unrecorded archaeological resources exist on the property.

### Paleontological Resources

#### *Research Methods*

Richard Hilton, Paleontological Consultant for the proposed projects, researched the geology of the area in the literature and from geologic maps. Hilton identified representative specimens of area fossils curated in the collections of museums, universities and colleges, and sought input from colleagues in local universities, colleges for expertise of the paleobiology of the area.

#### *Field Surveys and Sampling Methods*

Any exposed areas, e.g. roadcuts, stream channels and gullies, were checked for the existence of paleontologically sensitive areas. Samples were taken from dirt roads, creek beds, rodent burrows, a few excavations, and granite outcrops that stuck out of the grass. The wet spring season during the field survey presented difficulties in assessing the property for paleontological resources.

### **Project-Specific Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

#### **4.10I-1 Impacts to known cultural resources as a result of construction activities.**

##### Vista Oaks

The following conclusions are based on the discussion in the “On-site Cultural Resources for Vista Oaks” in this chapter.

##### *Quarry (VO-1)*

As discussed previously, this site is not eligible for the CRHR as it lacks information potential, associations with important people and events.

*Rock Fence (IF-89-15)*

The rock fence is in poor condition and lacks historic associations and distinction in construction. Therefore, the rock fence is not eligible for the CRHR.

*Ditch (IF-89-16)*

The ditch is in poor condition and lacks historic associations and distinction in construction and is therefore not eligible for the CRHR.

*Granite Foundation (CA-PLA-511H)*

As discussed previously, this site is not considered eligible for the CRHR as the target areas identified by a metal detector did not yield any substantial cultural deposits. Associations to important events or individuals were not found.

*Bedrock Mortar Station (PA-89-33)*

This site was not relocated, but was determined ineligible for the CRHR as it lacked associated artifacts and has no further research potential.

*Bedrock Mortar Station (VO-2)*

Based on the shovel test pits excavated at the site, the site was determined to have no associated cultural deposits, and no further research potential. The site is not eligible for the CRHR.

*Bedrock Mortars, Midden and Mining Site (CA-PLA-515/H)*

Based on previous test excavations of the site and observations, only two components of the site appear eligible for the CRHR: Component 1, which includes a cultural deposit in Area 3 between Flats A and B and a cultural deposit in Flat B between bedrock milling stations A, B, C and J, and Component 2, which includes a cultural deposit in Areas 1 and 2 in the Flat C vicinity.

*Historic Artifact Scatter (PA-89-32)*

Based on the presence of subsurface artifacts, the site is identified as eligible for the CRHR for its potential to yield information important in local history.

Highlands Parcel A

The following conclusions are based on the discussion in the “On-site Cultural Resources for Highlands Parcel A” in this chapter.

*CA-PLA-515/H (Prehistoric Components 2, 4, and 5)*

The archaeological test excavations at the Component #2 site in 1990 revealed cultural deposits ranging in depth from 30 to 80 centimeters. Component #2 does not appear to have been disturbed in the interim. Therefore, the component would likely yield information important in local prehistory. As

such, the component is potentially eligible for the CRHR under criterion 4 because of its information potential.

In the 1996 study the Component #4 ditch segment was considered part of the Page Placer Mine and potentially eligible for the National Register under criterion A for its association with the Gold Rush and immediate aftermath (Windmiller 1996:16). However, the 2003 study for Vista Oaks found that the adverse effects of off-highway vehicle traffic among other integrity considerations rendered the ditch and nearby mining features ineligible for the CRHR (Windmiller 2003:35-36). The revisit to the site during the 2005 study re-confirmed the conclusions of the 2003 study. The ditch and nearby mine components of CA-PLA-515/H are not eligible for the CRHR on the basis of integrity considerations.

Component #5 is an isolated bedrock milling station located between Component #2 and Secret Ravine Creek. Lacking evidence for a cultural deposit associated with Component #5 and also lacking any status as a traditional cultural property, such isolated bedrock milling stations generally do not meet any criterion of eligibility for the CRHR or as “unique archaeological resources” under CEQA.

*Highlands #2 (CA-PLA-1186)*

Highlands #2 (CA-PLA-1186) is a Native American site that includes two distinct areas of bedrock mortar use, one a ridge-based feature and the other located adjacent to Secret Ravine Creek. The ridge midden was test excavated in 1996 and its cultural deposits were considered intact. Upon revisiting the site, Windmiller found no indications of any vandalism or other changes since the 1996 study.

The non-contiguous feature of bedrock mortars along Secret Ravine Creek was also revisited during the 2005 study. While there was a lack of surface finds around the granite outcrop with mortar holes, the previously identified gray sediments suggested the possibility of an associated cultural deposit. As such, this outlying feature would be eligible for the California Register under criterion 4 due to its potential to yield information important in local prehistory, but only if cultural deposits exist.

*AF-31-67H (CA-PLA-1211-H)*

In the 1996 study, Windmiller indicated that the location of the ditch and its physical and historical association with an area of placer mining (which later became the Page Placer Mine), agree with the legal description of the Demings and Cos. ditch. At the time, the ditch was considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. In the meantime, the implementing regulations for the CRHR were completed. Now, a site that is eligible for the National Register is also eligible for the CRHR. Then, as now, integrity of the archaeological resource (the ability of the resource to convey its historical

importance) can impact its eligibility for either register. With respect to historic ditches, one reach of a given ditch may not retain the most important aspects of integrity for a resource of its type and therefore that particular segment may not be eligible for the CRHR, while another segment of the same ditch may be in good condition and retain its eligibility. Portions of the Demings & Cos. ditch are not eligible for the CRHR for precisely that reason. For example, portions of the ditch on Highlands Parcel A east of the narrow ravine that splits the ditch on Highlands into two segments is in much poorer condition than the segment on the west side of the ravine. Therefore, the eastern portion of the ditch may no longer retain its CRHR eligibility, while the extant portion of the westernmost segment does retain its CRHR eligibility.

#### *HPA-1*

This minor archaeological resource consists of a gouge in the south (east) bank of Secret Ravine. Such gouges or washed-out areas are common along Secret Ravine. Lacking a cultural deposit or other indicators such as surface artifacts and since such features are relatively small, they do not appear to meet any criterion of eligibility for the CRHR. This particular mine or prospect does not reflect gold prospecting or mining of any one particular time period; the physical evidence does not reflect any innovation or change in mining; an apparent association with an individual or group important in local, regional, California or national history does not exist; and any potential to yield important information through archaeological excavation or other forms of research is not apparent.

#### Conclusion

##### *Vista Oaks*

Although portions of the Vista Oaks prehistoric site CA-PLA-515/H are eligible for the CRHR, only one of the eight sites within the project area is considered to be eligible in its entirety (PA-89-32). However, the location of site PA-89-32 is currently in the vicinity of existing highway-related features, which are consistently maintained. The constant maintenance activity precludes adequate avoidance measures. In addition, without appropriate mitigation, the eligible components of prehistoric site CA-PLA-515/H would be impacted by the proposed project.

##### *Highlands Parcel A*

Portions of two prehistoric sites, CA-PLA-515/H (Component #2) and AF-31-67-H (Western most segment), potentially are eligible for the CRHR. The Highlands #2 site is eligible for the CRHR. In all, only one of the four sites within the project area is considered to be eligible in its entirety (Highlands #2). The implementation of the proposed project, without appropriate mitigation, would impact the eligible components of the above prehistoric sites (CA-PLA-515/H, Highlands #2, and AF-31-67-H). In particular the creek-side

trails would impact directly the creek-side component of Highlands #2 and AF-31-67-H.

Therefore, the proposed projects would result in a *potentially significant* impact.

Mitigation Measure(s)

Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce project impacts to a *less-than-significant* level.

The following measure is identified for the Vista Oaks project:

*4-10MM-1a Prior to any grading or construction activity the applicant/developer shall retain a qualified archeologist to consult with the Community Development Director in preparing, adopting, and implementing a data recovery program for historic site PA-89-32.*

The following measure is identified for the Highlands Parcel A project:

*4-10MM-1b Prior to any grading or construction activity, the Community Development Director shall ensure that the applicant/developer, in consultation with a qualified archeologist, erects orange construction fencing which fully encloses the three eligible components of prehistoric site CA-PLA-515/H and the ridge-top component of the prehistoric site Highlands #2 in order to prevent vehicular and pedestrian access during construction. Placement of the fencing shall be determined by a qualified archaeologist. Either subsequent to or in place of the orange construction fencing, a six-foot high permanent fence designed to restrict pedestrian and vehicular access shall be placed around the perimeter(s), and a locked gate shall be installed in the same perimeter fencing. Placement and erection of the fencing shall be monitored by the archaeologist. In addition, the applicant/developer shall prepare a long-term resource management plan, which allocates responsibility for preservation in perpetuity, including but not limited to, fence maintenance, weed abatement, and shall identify funding sources and responsible parties. This plan shall be reviewed and approved by the Community Development Director prior to any grading or construction activity.*

*- Or -*

*If fencing and preservation are not considered feasible as determined by the City of Rocklin, prior to any grading or construction activity the applicant/developer shall retain a qualified archeologist to consult with the Community Development Director in preparing, adopting, and implementing a data recovery program for the three eligible components of prehistoric site CA-PLA-515/H and the ridge-top component of prehistoric site Highlands #2.*

*4-10MM-1c 1) Because construction of the creek-side trail or road will impact the creek-side component of Highlands #2, archaeological test excavations shall be conducted adjacent to the bedrock milling station to determine if cultural deposits are present and if the location is then eligible for the California Register or qualifies as a “unique archaeological resource” under CEQA. Tests shall be conducted by a qualified archaeologist prior to any ground-disturbing activity in the project area.*

*2) If the creek-side component of Highlands #2 is eligible for the CRHR or qualifies as a “unique archaeological resource” under CEQA, then the Highlands #2 component shall be surrounded with orange construction fencing prior to any ground-disturbing activity on the project area (monitored by a qualified archaeologist) and the trail or road moved up hill (southward) to avoid this component of Highlands #2.*

*- Or -*

*If moving the trail or road southward to avoid this component of Highlands #2 is infeasible as determined by City staff, and the creek-side component of Highlands #2 is eligible for CRHR, the affected component of this archaeological site shall be buried with on-site soil, or, if off-site soil is necessary, it shall be chemically compatible soil. Burial shall occur prior to constructing the trail or road, and the burial shall be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. Once the direct burial is accomplished, construction of the trail or road over the ditch may proceed. Because the Highlands #2 component site is located within a federal botanical mitigation area for Valley elderberry longhorn beetle, other requirements may restrict the mitigation options.*

*4-10MM-1d Intact segments of the historic ditch AF-31-67-H (CA-PLA-1211-H) shall be surrounded with orange construction fencing prior to any ground-disturbing activity on the project area*

*(monitored by a qualified archaeologist) and the trail or road moved up hill (southward) to avoid AF-31-67-H.*

*-Or-*

*If moving the trail or road southward to avoid the historic ditch is infeasible as determined by City staff, the ditch shall be surrounded with orange construction fencing (monitored by a qualified archaeologist) prior to any ground-disturbing activity on the project area until direct burial of the affected portions of the historic ditch with on-site soil is initiated. If off-site soil must be used, it shall be chemically compatible with the on-site soil. Once the direct burial is accomplished, construction of the trail or road over the ditch may proceed. In addition to placement of orange construction fencing, the archaeologist shall also monitor any direct burial.*

**4.10I-2 Impacts to potential paleontological resources as a result of construction activities.**

The following conclusions are based on the discussion in the “Geologic History” section of this chapter.

Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A

*The Sierra Nevada Batholith and Rocklin Pluton*

Because fossils are not usually found in intrusive igneous rocks, the potential for paleontological resources within the Sierra Nevada Batholith and Rocklin Pluton is low.

*Chico Formation*

Although evidence was not found that the Chico Formation outcrops in the Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A sites, evidence of the Chico Formation at nearby sites indicates that the Chico Formation may be encountered during grading and excavation. The Chico Formation has the potential to contain significant paleontological resources.

*Ione Formation*

The Ione Formation has not been mapped, nor has evidence been found that the Ione Formation outcrops on the Vista Oaks or Highlands Parcel A sites. However, the Ione Formation outcrops in the Lincoln, Rocklin, and Granite Bay areas and may therefore be encountered during grading and excavation on the Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A sites. The Ione Formation has the potential to contain significant paleontological resources.

#### *Valley Springs Formation*

Outcrops of Valley Springs Formation have not been mapped nor seen on the Vista Oaks or Highlands Parcel A sites; however, Valley Springs Formation may be encountered during grading and/or excavation has the potential to contain significant paleontological resources.

#### *Mehrten Formation*

The Mehrten Formation is found throughout the higher ground of the Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A sites has the potential to contain significant paleontological resources.

#### *Turlock Lake Formation*

The Lower Pleistocene Turlock Lake Formation is found as terrace deposits along benches above the granite in the basin of Secret Ravine Creek in the Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A sites. Fossil Pleistocene horse bones and teeth have been found in this formation in Granite Bay and other horse bones have been found in the Roseville area. The Turlock Lake Formation has the potential to contain significant Pleistocene terrestrial fossils.

#### *Quaternary Alluvium*

Quaternary Alluvium exists in the flood plain of Secret Ravine Creek in the Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A sites. Quaternary Alluvium has the potential to contain terrestrial fossils.

#### Conclusion

While evidence of the Chico, Ione, or Valley Springs Formations was not found during preliminary surveys of the project site, these formations have the potential to occur on the project sites. The Mehrten Formation, Turlock Lake Formation, and Quaternary Alluvium occur on the project site, and the Mehrten and Turlock Lake Formations will inevitably be disturbed during the grading and trenching phases of the Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A projects. These formations are considered to be significant potential paleontological resources; therefore, construction of the proposed projects would have a ***potentially significant*** impact on paleontological resources.

#### Mitigation Measure(s)

Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce project impacts to a *less-than-significant* impact.

The following measures are identified for the Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A projects:

- 4.10MM-2a *During the grading and trenching phases of the Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A project sites, a qualified project paleontologist shall monitor the sites in order to assess the*



*potential for discovering paleontological resources. If the potential appears to be minimal as determined the qualified paleontologist, periodic monitoring may be made thereafter.*

4.10MM2b *Heavy equipment operators shall be briefed by the project paleontologist to gain awareness of visual identification techniques in order to identify potential paleontological resources.*

4.10MM2c *If any paleontological resources are discovered during construction activities, all work shall be halted in the vicinity of the find and the project paleontologist shall be consulted and the City's Community Development Director shall be notified. Upon determining the significance of the resource, the consulting paleontologist, in coordination with the City, shall determine the appropriate actions to be taken, which may include excavation. A note requiring compliance with this measure shall be indicated on construction drawings and in construction contracts for the review and approval of the Engineering Division prior to any grading or construction activity or approval of Improvement Plans.*

**4.10I-3 Increases in vandalism and artifact collecting as a result of additional residences in the immediate vicinity of valuable cultural resources.**

Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A

The proposed project is a tentative subdivision map to divide 93.2 acres into 100 single-family residential lots and 5 open space parcels. Recent California Department of Finance estimates suggest that the number of persons per household in Rocklin is approximately 2.6. The project would therefore introduce approximately 260 new residents as well as an unknown number of non-resident visitors into the Secret Ravine-Sierra Bluffs community area.

The project site, including areas of historic and prehistoric value, has been previously, and potentially is still currently, disturbed by off-road vehicle use. Although the addition of 260 residents would practically eliminate the use of off-road vehicles on the site, the potential for vandalism and artifact collection would increase on the two known sites. Therefore, the proposed project would result in ***potentially significant*** impacts to cultural resources.

Mitigation Measure(s)

Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.10MM-1a and -1b would reduce Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A impacts to a *less-than-significant* level.

**4.10I-4 Inadvertent discovery of unknown prehistoric or historic cultural resources, or the discovery of human remains, due to construction activity.**

Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A

A number of culturally significant artifacts have been discovered on the project site and have been recorded. However, the potential exists that other artifacts exist on the project site, which have not yet been discovered. In addition, the potential exists that unknown human remains exist on the project site. Ground-related construction activities could result in the uncovering of either undiscovered cultural resources or unknown human remains. Therefore, the proposed project could result in a *potentially significant* impact.

Mitigation Measure(s)

Implementation of the following mitigation measures, specified within the cultural resources analysis performed by Peak & Associates, would reduce project impacts to a *less-than-significant* level.

The following measures are identified for the Vista Oaks and Highlands Parcel A projects:

- 4-10MM-4a If during construction outside of the areas designated as CA-PLA-515/H, Highlands #2, or AF-31-67-H, the project applicant, any successor in interest, or any agents or contractors of the applicant or successor discovers a cultural resource that could qualify as either an historical resource or a unique archaeological resource, work shall immediately stop within 100 feet of the find, and both the City of Rocklin and an appropriate Native American representative shall be immediately notified per Southeast Rocklin Circulation Element 47. Work within the area surrounding the find (i.e., an area created by a 100-foot radius emanating from the location of the find) shall remain suspended while a qualified archaeologist, retained at the applicant's expense, conducts an onsite evaluation, develops an opinion as to whether the resource qualifies as either an historical resource or a unique archaeological resource, and makes recommendations regarding the possible implementation of avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation measures. Based on such recommendations, as well as any input obtain from the Indian Community within 72 hours (excluding weekends and State and federal holidays) or its receipt of notice regarding the find, the City shall determine what mitigation is appropriate. At a minimum, any Native American artifacts shall be respectfully treated and offered to the Indian Community for permanent storage or donation, at the Indian Community's discretion, and*

*any Native American sites, such as grinding rocks, shall be respectfully treated and preserved intact. In considering whether to impose any more stringent mitigation measures, the City shall consider the potential cost to the applicant and any implications that additional mitigation may have for project design and feasibility. Where a discovered cultural resource is neither a Native American artifact, a Native American site, an historical resource, nor a unique archaeological resource, the City shall not require any additional mitigation, consistent with the policies set forth in Public Resources Code sections 21083.2 and 21084.1. A note requiring compliance with this measure shall be indicated on construction drawings and in construction contracts for the review and approval of the Engineering Division prior to any grading or construction activity.*

- 4-10MM-4b Should human remains be found, then the Coroner's office shall be immediately contacted and all work halted until final disposition is made by the Coroner. Should the remains be determined to be of Native American descent, then the Native American Heritage Commission shall be consulted to determine the appropriate disposition of such remains. A note requiring compliance with this measure shall be indicated on construction drawings and in construction contracts for the review and approval of the Engineering Division prior to any grading or construction activity.*

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The cumulative context for cultural resources is the portion of Secret Ravine Creek that is a perennial stream from Loomis south to the junction with Dry Creek in the City of Roseville because this stretch of Secret Ravine Creek constitutes the most likely area of seasonal Native American occupation. Secret Ravine Creek north of Loomis is considered an intermittent, seasonal creek where it is less likely that seasonal occupation occurred.

#### **4.10I-5 Regional loss of cultural resources in Placer County due to cumulative development in the Secret Ravine watershed in conjunction with development of the proposed project.**

Cultural resources are unique and non-renewable resources, and development activities continue to damage and destroy both prehistoric and historic sites and features, in many cases, before the information inherent in them can be reviewed, recorded, and interpreted.

Existing, but undiscovered archeological sites in the project site, including prehistoric resources, could contain important information pertinent to the

general understanding of the prehistoric past of the region. Current federal, State, and local laws and policies protect prehistoric and historic resources. The loss of any one archeological site can affect others in a region because the other properties are best understood completely in the context of cultural system of which they (and the destroyed resource) were a part.

However, the Rocklin General Plan EIR did not find cumulative impacts to cultural resources as significant and unavoidable, and project impacts to cultural resources are mitigated to a less-than-significant level with implementation of the mitigation identified in this chapter. Therefore, the incremental loss of cultural resources resulting from the proposed project would be considered a *less-than-significant* impact.

Mitigation Measure(s)

*None required.*

## Endnotes

---

<sup>1</sup> *Evaluation of Cultural Resources (Vista Oaks)*, Ric Windmiller, July 2003.

<sup>2</sup> *Evaluation of Cultural Resources (Highlands Parcel A)*, Ric Windmiller, May 2005.

<sup>3</sup> *Evaluation of Cultural Resources Peer Review and Report*, Peak & Associates, August 2003.

<sup>4</sup> *Preliminary Paleontological Assessment*, Richard Hilton, May 2005.